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Different — Just Like You

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DIFFERENT—JUST LIKE YOU

Christine Parker

It's much easier to stand in solidarity with the oppressed
rather than be the oppressed.

I've always been
pro-gay marriage,
pro-gay rights,
pro-gay adoption,
pro-let's win this fight!
But it's a bit different now that I myself
am in the light.
I am bisexual.
And I am damn proud of it.
But for a while I wasn't.
Couldn't say it aloud, not with...
Pride.
Strength.
I was...
ignoring the undeniable
river of emotions,
that ran thick through my veins,
that grew waves like the oceans.
I was passionately suppressing,
this voice that's inside,

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that was whispering, repeating,
screaming at me to stop hideing. And, just...

Listen.

And even though I knew,
That I really shouldn't lie,
And that my friends would support,
And would be my ally,
And I knew it wasn't "wrong,"
When it felt this right,
I'd just ask myself, why
Do I try
To deny
That I'm bi...
It's because I'm scared.
California's Proposition 8?
Florida's Proposition 2?
Maine's Question 1?
Arizona's Proposition 102?

Listen.

I had only spoken to the man
Maybe once or twice...
but my old high-school librarian's words hit me...
like a ton of books' advice.
"Never let them see you sweat."
So I didn't.
The rumors were not few,
Suddenly everyone knew,
People asked me if it's true.
And I'd say, "Yeah."
And if you have a problem...
You can go ahead and take it up,
with my DNA
'cuz shit, I can't help it.
I'm coded to be this way.

Listen.

This isn't "just a phase,"
That I'm going through.
I'm not here to make all of,
Your sex fantasies come true.
Heterosexual? Homosexual?
There's exceptions to the rule.
Lindsay Lohan? Megan Fox?
I was bi before it was "cool."
I am not desperate,
Don't call me a slut.
Just make up my mind?
Excuse me, sorry... what?

I like boys and girls.
No if's, but's, or can'ts.
I care about what's in your heart,
Not what's in your pants.

Listen.

I am not abnormal.
I am not defective.
I am not a threat.
Or infective.
I'm not lacking,
I'm not taboo.

I'm different...

just like you. ☺